



# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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Cover: Common Redpoll at Laurel, Md., Feb. 23, 1978.

Photo by Richard A. Rowlett.



## WATERBIRDS ON A BALTIMORE CITY RESERVOIR

*Robert F. Ringler*

Druid Lake is a small reservoir on the edge of the Piedmont in the center of Baltimore City. During migrations and winter it attracts a large variety of waterfowl into this urban setting. It is bordered on the north by Druid Hill Park, on the west and south by residential areas, and on the east by the Jones Falls Valley.

From the fall of 1975 to the spring of 1977 I had the opportunity to observe the changing waterbird population on the lake almost daily. During the 216 days from Oct. 10, 1975 to May 12, 1976 I made stops at the lake on 153 days (70.8%). During the 185 days from Sept. 21, 1976 to Mar. 24, 1977 I stopped on 142 days (76.8%). On some days I was able to make a visit in both the morning and evening, discovering that there was often a turnover of birds during the day. Occasionally it was possible to identify an individual bird over a period of weeks. Since the reservoir is surrounded by a high fence human pressure is negligible.

The following is an annotated list of the species I found at the reservoir during the above periods.

**HORNED GREBE** - Uncommon migrant. In fall the earliest was on Oct. 30 both years, the latest on Nov. 13, 1975 with a high count of 3 on the latter date. In spring the earliest was on Mar. 6, 1976 and the latest on May 3, 1976 with a high count of 5 on Apr. 4, 1976.

**PIED-BILLED GREBE** - Fairly common migrant. In fall the earliest was on Sept. 26, 1976 and the latest on Nov. 12, 1975. In spring the earliest was on Feb. 28, 1977 and the latest on Apr. 2, 1976. The high count was 4 on Oct. 11, 1975.

**WHISTLING SWAN** - Occasional migrant. One adult on May 11 and 12, 1976 was the only bird I saw.

**CANADA GOOSE** - Occasional migrant. One bird from Feb. 7-9, 1977 was the only one I saw on the lake. Flyovers during the peak of migration are expected.

**BRANT** - Accidental. One adult on Oct. 20, 1976 in a rainstorm.

MALLARD - Regular breeder at the lake, common migrant, abundant in winter. High count was 340 on Jan. 17, 1977. They were jammed into the 10% open water at the west end of the lake as the remainder was ice-covered.

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK - Fairly common in migration and winter. High count was 10 on Dec. 6, 1976.

COMMON PINTAIL - Occasional migrant. One female was on the lake Oct. 17 and 19, 1976.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL - Occasional migrant. One drake was on the lake Dec. 3, 1975.



AMERICAN WIGEON - Occasional in migration and winter. Three on Dec. 3, 1975 and two during the period Nov. 7, 1976 to Feb. 23, 1977.

NORTHERN SHOVELER - Occasional migrant. A pair on Mar. 13, 1976.

WOOD DUCK - Regular breeder, common migrant, fairly common in winter. High counts were 44 on Sept. 21, 1976 and 42 on Nov. 14, 1976.

REDHEAD - Uncommon in migration and winter. The only fall record was of 4 on Nov. 12, 1976. During the period Jan. 12 to Mar. 16, 1977 up to 10 were present, that number being seen on Feb. 4 and 10.

RING-NECKED DUCK - Uncommon migrant. In fall the earliest was on Oct. 16, 1975 and the latest on Nov. 11, 1976. In spring the earliest was on Feb. 17, 1977 and the latest on Mar. 23, 1977, which was the date of the high count, 5 birds. There were 4 on Mar. 4, 1976.

CANVASBACK - Occasional in migration and winter. My five records are of 3 on Dec. 26, 1975, 1 on Feb. 5, 1976, 3 on Jan. 17, 2 on Jan. 19, and 1 on Jan. 20, 1977.

GREATER SCAUP - Accidental. A female on Mar. 16, 1976.

LESSER SCAUP - Fairly common in fall, occasional in spring. In fall the earliest was on Oct. 10, 1975 and the latest on Nov. 17, 1976. High counts were 4 on Oct. 18, 1975 and 5 on Oct. 27, 1976. My only spring record was of 3 on Apr. 4, 1976.

COMMON GOLDENEYE - Occasional fall migrant. The only birds I have seen were females: 2 on Oct. 31, 1975, 1 on Nov. 11 and 15, 1975, and 2 on Nov. 18, 1976.

BUFFLEHEAD - Common migrant, uncommon in winter. Early arrivals were on Oct. 30 both years, the latest on Apr. 27, 1976. High

counts were 14 on Nov. 13, 1975 and 16 on Nov. 7, 1976.

**OLDSQUAW** - Fairly common migrant, occasional in winter. In fall the earliest was on Oct. 28, 1975 and the latest on Nov. 26, 1975, with a high count of 12 on Nov. 13, 1975. Winter records were of singles on Jan. 1 and Dec. 14, 1976. In spring the earliest was on Feb. 19, 1976 and the latest on May 1, 1976.

**WHITE-WINGED SCOTER** - Accidental. There were 3 on Feb. 2, 1976.



Buffleheads, Nov. 7, 1976

**BLACK SCOTER** - Accidental. One female on Nov. 13, 1975.

**RUDDY DUCK** - Abundant in fall, uncommon in winter, common in spring. The earliest arrival was on Oct. 11, 1975 and the latest bird was there on Apr. 16, 1976. High counts each year were 82 on Nov. 20, 1975 and 68 on Nov. 8, 1976.

**HOODED MERGANSER** - There were none during my first year of observations. However, from Jan. 31 to Mar. 22, 1977, Hoodeds were present daily, usually in the afternoon, with a maximum of 21 on Feb. 8.

**COMMON MERGANSER** - Occasional migrant. Single birds on Nov. 13, 1975, Dec. 7 and 9, 1976.

**RED-BREASTED MERGANSER** - Accidental. A female on Dec. 10, 1975.

**AMERICAN COOT** - Common migrant, occasional in winter. Earliest arrival was on Sept. 30, 1976 and latest departure on Apr. 12, 1976. The highest count was 8 birds on five occasions: Oct. 27, 1975, Nov. 12, 13, 14, and 22, 1976.

**GREATER YELLOWLEGS** - Accidental. One on Mar. 16, 1977. The water level at this time was low, exposing some shoreline.

**SPOTTED SANDPIPER** - Occasional migrant. Two on Apr. 27 and one on Aug. 25, 1976, bobbing along on the rocks around the lake.

**ICELAND GULL** - Accidental in winter. One first-year bird on Jan. 19, 1977.

**GREATER BLACK-BACKED GULL** - Fairly common in winter.

**LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL** - Accidental in winter. One adult in winter plumage on Jan. 14, 1977.

**HERRING GULL** - Common in fall and spring, abundant in winter.

RING-BILLED GULL - Common in fall and spring, abundant in winter.

LAUGHING GULL - Uncommon in late summer and fall.

BONAPARTE'S GULL - Uncommon migrant.

Any isolated body of water free from constant human activity can produce some interesting ornithological observations if a person is willing to take the time to make repeated trips to the same location.

I encourage anyone who lives in fairly close proximity to a pond or reservoir to take similar notes and in the process learn more about our waterbirds. The variety of birds will increase with the number of observations. In the above notes an abundant bird should be seen on every trip, common on most trips, fairly common on one third of the trips, uncommon on about 10 percent of the trips, and occasional on only a few visits.



Lesser Black-backed Gull with Herring Gulls, Jan. 14, 1977

3501 Melody Lane, Baltimore 21207



## SONG SPARROW BATHES IN A TREE

*John H. Fales*

The weather in Southern Maryland from the advent of summer into early July 1977 was marked by extremely warm and humid days. The temperature reached 100° F. on July 6. As the temperature rose to 94° F. the next day, a midafternoon thunderstorm brought temporary relief. After the heavy rain had ceased I watched a Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) flitting about in jerky flight through a dogwood tree (*Cornus florida*). This bird was excited about the droplets of water remaining on the leaves. It brushed against them and got thoroughly wet, and shook off the water as when taking a typical bath. This activity, which went on for more than a minute, was an interesting way for this bird to bathe. I had not observed tree bathing here previously.

Bent (1968) mentioned that, "the song sparrow is one of many species that bathes in drops of water on grass and leaves by striking the foliage with the wings and body and thus throwing water on the plumage."

Bent, A. C. 1968. Life Histories of North American Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Buntings, Towhees, Finches, Sparrows, and Allies. U.S. Natl. Mus. Bull. 237, Part 3, 1889 p.

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## BREEDING STATUS OF ROYAL TERN, GULL-BILLED TERN, AND BLACK SKIMMER IN MARYLAND

Glenn D. Therres, John S. Weske, and Mitchell A. Byrd

The Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*), Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*), and Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*) occur locally as breeding birds in the state of Maryland (Stewart and Robbins 1958). The Royal Tern reaches the northern limit of its breeding range here, the Gull-billed nests regularly as far north as southern New Jersey, and the Black Skimmer breeds north to southern New England (American Ornithologists' Union 1957, Savell 1972).

In Maryland, the breeding range of these birds is restricted to Chincoteague and Sinepuxent Bays and a few smaller bays, all in coastal Worcester County. This region experiences heavy human recreational use at the time of year that these species are nesting, and there has been major alteration of the natural environment from building and other development. For this reason, the breeding status of these and other beach-nesting species should be considered vulnerable.

In areas of their range where human impact is low, Royal Terns, Gull-billed Terns, and Black Skimmers typically nest on sandy barrier islands, especially near ocean inlets. Colonies are most frequently located in sites above the normal high-tide line but low enough to be washed over and stripped of vegetation by surf from occasional winter storms. Nesting also occurs on bay islands that have sparsely vegetated sandy or shelly areas.

In Maryland, the barrier beaches of Assateague Island and Ocean City are so heavily disturbed that skimmers and terns, except perhaps for an occasional pair of Little Terns (*Sterna albifrons*), can no longer nest there successfully. Thus, potential colony sites are limited to natural islands in coastal bays and to man-made islands, the incidental by-product of spoil deposition from channel dredging. There are five islands that have been used by Royals, Gull-bills, or skimmers as nesting localities during the past four years. Two of these are dredge spoil islands in Sinepuxent Bay, and the remaining three are natural islands in Chincoteague Bay, each a salt marsh "tump"--as they are known locally--on which the dominant vegetation is the grass *Spartina alterniflora*. A small, shelly beach occupies a portion of one of these islands.

Royal Terns, in recent years, have nested on one of the spoil islands and also on the natural island with the beach. The species was first recorded as breeding in Maryland in 1950 when two nests were found on an island in Chincoteague Bay (Stewart and Robbins 1958). This site was abandoned in the early 1960's when it gradually became overgrown with *Phragmites* and bushes; it now supports a colony of herons, egrets, and ibis. The Royal Terns continued in most years to nest elsewhere in the coastal region, reaching a peak of 1,160 pairs in 1976. Table 1 shows

the estimated breeding population from 1974 through 1977. Broad fluctuations are not surprising, for the birds move readily between Virginia and Maryland from one year to the next (Weske, unpublished data). Nesting success was high from 1974 through 1976, but the 1977 season was almost a complete failure. The reason for this situation is uncertain but is very likely related to habitat deterioration. In 1977, the spoil island used by Royals in preceding years had diminished in size because of erosion, and most of the part that remained had become thickly vegetated. Only a handful of Royals attempted nesting, and none were successful. Similarly on the natural island, the bare area of beach that served as a colony site for a thousand pairs or more in the two previous years was reduced in size by vegetational growth, doubtless fostered in part by heavy fertilization from the birds themselves. A clear area sufficient for at least a small colony remained, but the birds laid their eggs nearby on mats of dried, dead eelgrass that had washed up on the marsh during the winter. We know of no previous instance of Royal Terns nesting on wrack in a salt marsh. Most of the colony was abandoned at about the time of hatching, and only about four young fledged.

Table 1. Breeding pairs of Royal Terns, Gull-billed Terns, and Black Skimmers in Maryland, 1974-1977 (estimates compiled from survey data from M. Byrd and J. Weske).

<u>Species</u>	<u>1974</u>	<u>1975</u>	<u>1976</u>	<u>1977</u>
Royal Tern	225	1000	1160	134
Gull-billed Tern	1	1	1	0
Black Skimmer	35	150	136	182

The Gull-billed Tern in Maryland is near its northern limit for breeding; it nests uncommonly but regularly in southern New Jersey (Savell 1972) and in 1975 bred on Long Island (Buckley *et al.* 1975). Stewart and Robbins (1958) described the breeding status in Maryland as fairly common locally in the coastal bay area. They reported a high breeding population of 25 pairs in Chincoteague Bay in 1951. The population has now declined to no more than a single breeding pair in any one year (Table 1). Nesting success is unknown. During the past four years, Gull-bills were found only on the dredge spoil islands. It appears that they are less flexible than Royal Terns or skimmers in adapting to nesting habitat other than sparsely vegetated expanses of sand.

At some time during the past four years, Black Skimmers have nested on all five of the islands mentioned. As in Virginia (Erwin 1977) and North Carolina (Soots and Parnell 1975), they frequently formed mixed-species colonies, particularly in association with Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*). On spoil islands the nesting substrate was sand, but on natural islands the nests were located on eelgrass wrack in the salt marsh. Frohling (1965) first reported salt marsh nesting by skimmers in New Jersey and pointed out the survival value for the species if it can successfully use this habitat, which attracts much less human disturbance than beaches.



Stewart and Robbins (1958) reported a high breeding population of about 250 pairs of Black Skimmers in 1951 and considered the species common in the Worcester County coastal area. Its numbers have declined moderately since then but have been rather stable for the past three years, averaging 150-160 pairs (Table 1). The low figure of 35 pairs in 1974 probably is not an accurate estimate, because of incomplete censusing of the area. However, the 1974 population was likely below average, for no colonies were reported from Chincoteague Bay, an area that was censused.

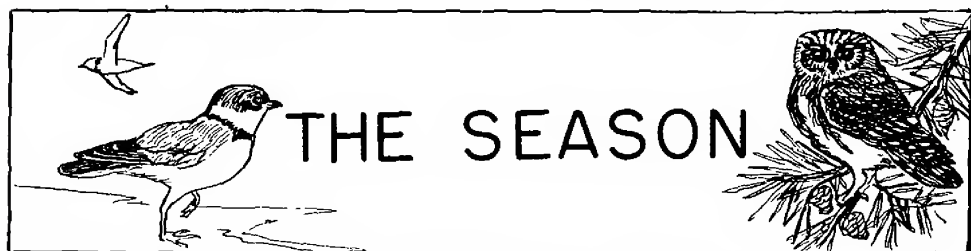
Although the sizes of the Maryland breeding population for these three species differ considerably, their nesting habitat requirements are quite similar. Because of the limited number of available nesting sites and because of ever greater human use of the coastal area, these birds are likely to become increasingly scarce as breeding species. Moreover, habitat degradation occurs even in the absence of direct human influence. Because spoil islands, in particular, are subject to rapid alteration from erosion and vegetational succession, they supply sand-nesting species with optimum habitat for only a few years (Soots and Parnell 1975). On the other hand, these birds readily take advantage of suitable new sites. Management that enhances nesting habitat--protecting it from intrusion, controlling growth of vegetation, and periodically creating or renewing dredge spoil islands--will increase the likelihood that the Royal Tern, Gull-billed Tern, and Black Skimmer prosper as breeding species in Maryland.

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## WINTER SEASON, DEC. 1, 1977 - FEB. 28, 1978

*Robert F. Ringler*

Severe weather again plagued the region during the winter. Bird mortality among some of our hardier species was again evident. Carolina Wrens among others were hard hit. Perhaps most indicative of the kind of winter we had was the impressive flight of redpolls. More Common Redpolls were seen in Maryland last winter than had been recorded in all past years. Many people entertained them at feeders. Large flocks occurred in weedy fields. For the first time nearly everyone was experiencing the Hoary Redpoll Guessing Game, for among the hordes of Common Redpolls there were a few that were described as Hoaries.

The season began inauspiciously in December, when temperatures averaged near normal though precipitation was 2-4 inches above normal, except in the mountains. Early snow in the western part of the state was dissipated by the mid-month thaw. An exceptionally heavy rainstorm settled in on the 18th and continued in some areas for 3 days. By the end of the year temperatures were falling steadily and the big crunch began in January with temperatures 3° to 8° F. below normal and precipitation 3 to 5 inches above normal. Most of the precipitation was in the form of snow in the middle of the month.

Until this time the number of redpolls was quite low with only a few scattered individuals reported. During the second half of the month numbers began to increase. In February temperatures averaged 8° to 12° below normal and precipitation was subnormal by 1.5 to 2 inches. A huge blizzard swept the Northeast on Feb. 6-7 and in front of that storm came the flocks of redpolls. Flocks numbering in the hundreds were seen, and groups in the dozens were common at feeders. Most of these birds remained throughout the month. Reports came from nearly every county though the birds were particularly scarce west of the Piedmont. Here is a run-down by county:

Garrett - Feb. 22, 12 at feeders in Oakland through the end of the month (Fran Pope).

Allegany - Good numbers at LaVale and Cumberland from late January (John Willetts).

Washington - Jan. 26 to Apr. 8 with a peak of 70 in mid-March (Don and Frances Cutchall).

Frederick - Present from Jan. 28 (Anne Cherrington).

Carroll - At feeder in Westminster from before Christmas (Nate Webb).

Baltimore - Feb. 2, 150 in weeds along Perring Parkway, Parkville (Hank Kaestner).

Harford - Oct. 30, record early arrival at feeder in Churchville (Chuck Graham).

Cecil - No report.

Howard - Present from Jan. 31 (Steve Simon).

Montgomery - Jan. 1, 40 in a grove of ornamental birches at Gude's Nursery, Rockville (Rowlett).

Prince Georges - Daily at Laurel feeders from Feb. 12 (12 birds, Chandler and Eleanor Robbins). At the end of February Rowlett counted about 150 near his feeder in Laurel.

Anne Arundel - Feb. 28, 30 feeding on the ground with Pine Siskins in residential area of Odenton (Ellen Gizzarelli).

Charles, Calvert, and St. Marys - No report.

Kent - Feb. 19, 22 birds, location not given (Floyd Parks).

Queen Annes - No report. Caroline - None seen.

Talbot - Feb. 25, 10, location not given (Jan Reese).

Dorchester - None seen. Somerset and Wicomico - No report.

Worcester - Mar. 4, 16 roadside birds during a 90-mile drive (Rowlett).

There were bound to be reports of Hoary Redpolls when so many birds were involved. The problem of field identification immediately became apparent. What is a Hoary Redpoll? In terms of field marks it is not easy to say. Museum specimens show a wide range of plumages overlapping those of the Common Redpoll, which has several confusing races to complicate the problem. Some birds are impossible to identify even in the hand. However, among the Hoary Redpolls are those that stand out because of their unstreaked rumps and undertail coverts. These are perhaps the key field marks for some, but not all, Hoary Redpolls. The remainder are probably indistinguishable in the field.

There is only one previous Maryland record of the Hoary Redpoll. This was an adult male collected Feb. 20, 1949 at South Point, Worcester Co. (Buckalew). At the time it was the only specimen of the species from south of New York City. Enumerated below are all the reports of possible Hoary Redpolls in the state this season:

Jan. 29 - Parkville, Baltimore Co., a female found by Mike Resch,

Feb. 5 and a male and female seen on Jan. 31 by David Holmes and Ringler.

Feb. 5 - Hagerstown, Washington Co., up to 12 Hoaries watched at

Mar. 23 3-foot range in mid-March while 50 redpolls at a time fed on porch feeder (Don and Frances Cutchall).

Feb. 11 - Spencerville, Montgomery Co., a male at a feeder (Floyd

Feb. 16 Murdoch, Rowlett, Robbins, *et al.*)

Feb. 14 Churchville, Harford Co., 1 at a feeder (Spike Updegrove, *et al.*).

Feb. 20 Lutherville, Baltimore Co., 2 at a feeder (Rose Gerringer).

Feb. ? Rodgers Forge, Baltimore Co., 2 at a feeder (Eddie Slaughter).

Feb. ? Ruxton, Baltimore Co., 2 at a feeder (Mrs. John Mulholland).

Feb. ? Westminster, Carroll Co., 1 at a feeder (Mrs. Nate Webb).

Two of the birds (Parkville and Spencerville) were photographed and substantiate the identification. Needless to say, a great deal of care should be taken in trying to identify this rare species.

There were probably many more observations of redpolls throughout the state. Many of these deserve documentation, but without a report from each observer it is impossible. I urge everyone to send in notes about redpolls so that an update on the subject can be prepared and a more nearly complete picture of the invasion given.

Loons, Grebes. A Red-throated Loon on Loch Raven, Baltimore Co. Dec. 20 (Rick Blom, Kaestner, Steve Sapperstein) was unusual in the Piedmont. A single Red-necked Grebe returned to Baltimore Harbor on Feb. 9 (Blom). Three were there on Feb. 25 (Ringler), and on the same date two were at Sandy Point, Anne Arundel Co. (Wierenga). A high count of Horned Grebes in the mountains was 33 on Deep Creek Lake, Garrett Co., Dec. 19 (Pope).

Shearwaters, Gannets, Cormorants. Six Greater Shearwaters were found 50-60 miles east of Ocean City on a Dec. 3 pelagic trip (Rowlett). 1,400 Northern Gannets were estimated for the same trip. An immature Great Cormorant was on the jetty at Ocean City for the Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Dec. 29 (Rowlett, *et al.*). The Point Lookout CBC on Jan. 2 had the high count of 9. A Double-crested Cormorant on the Susquehanna River, Jan. 1 (Graham, John Wortman), and another flying into Baltimore Harbor, Feb. 25 (Ringler, Dwight Lee), seemed misplaced in this cold season.

Hérons, Ibis. Three hardy Green Herons were found this winter. One was on the Crisfield CBC, Dec. 27 (at Saxis, Va., by Chandler Robbins), 1 on the Bowie CBC, Dec. 31 (Klimkiewicz), and 1 in Talbot Co. that remained into January (Reese). Single Great Egrets appeared on three CBCs: Crisfield, Ocean City on Dec. 29, and Southern Dorchester on Dec. 30. A Snowy Egret was also present for the Ocean City count. Louisiana Herons numbered 3 on the Crisfield CBC, 3 for Ocean City, and 2 for Southern Dorchester. A Black-crowned Night Heron was found on Aberdeen Proving Ground, Harford Co., on Jan. 1 by Graham and John Wortman. A Least Bittern on the Crisfield CBC (Danny Bystrak) was the latest state record by 15 days. Glossy Ibis on CBCs were 1 for Crisfield and 4 for Ocean City.

Waterfowl. The first Garrett County record of Brant was of 7 on Deep Creek Lake, Dec. 8 (Pope). An immature male Harlequin Duck was found by Midshipman Giff Beaton at the Naval Academy, Annapolis, on Feb. 6. It remained through Mar. 19. A King Eider was at the Ocean City jetty for the Dec. 29 CBC. Exceptionally high counts of waterfowl on the CBCs were: 78,659 Canada Geese, Lower Kent, Dec. 18; 14,783 Snow Geese, Ocean City, Dec. 29; 1,508 Greater Scaup, Annapolis, Jan. 1; and 659 Buffleheads, Point Lookout, Jan. 2.

Diurnal Raptors. A high count of Black Vultures was 34 at Tanyard, Caroline Co., Feb. 9 (Ethel Engle). Single Northern Goshawks were reported as follows: one below Pocomoke City on the Crisfield CBC, Dec. 27 (C. Robbins), one eating a rabbit while sitting on the ice of the Youghiogheny River, Garrett Co., Jan. 14 (Pope), one at Sycamore Landing, Montgomery Co., Jan. 21 (Paul G. DuMont), and one flying over Town Hill, Allegany Co., Feb. 21 (Rowlett). An immature Cooper's Hawk that patrolled a feeder in Mountain Lake Park, Garrett Co., from Dec. 31 to Feb. 19 was

seen to carry off a European Starling on Feb. 1 (Pope). The only Golden Eagle reported this season was an immature on the Salisbury CBC at Wetipquin, Dec. 26 (Henry Armistead). An immature Bald Eagle over I-70 near Rt. 97, Howard Co., Feb. 2 (Holmes) was unusual. An adult Peregrine Falcon was seen in Druid Hill Park, Baltimore City, from Dec. 26 to Jan. 5 by many people. It frequented the exotic waterfowl pool at the zoo, but fortunately was seen to take only Rock Doves during its tenure. Other Peregrines were at the Back River sewage plant, Baltimore Co., Feb. 9 to 12 (Blom, *et al.*) and an immature in Howard County, Feb. 26 (Paul Zucker).

Rails, Gallinules, Shorebirds. A King Rail was found in Tanyard, Dec. 22 by Engle, a Virginia Rail was near Annapolis, Jan. 20 (Wierenga), and a Common Gallinule was on a golf course pond in Talbot Co., Nov. 12 through Dec. 4 (Reese). Eight American Oystercatchers on the Ocean City CBC, Dec. 29 (Claudia Wilds, Armistead, Woody Martin) were the first on a Maryland CBC. Three were seen by Rowlett and Mark Hoffman on Jan. 3, only the second January record for Maryland; the other was on Jan. 22, 1977 at Ocean City (Ringler, Resch, James L. Stasz). Wintering in Harford County were a Black-bellied Plover and 3 or 4 Dunlins at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Jan. 1 (Wortman, Graham). A Marbled Godwit on the Ocean City CBC remained through Jan. 3 (Rowlett, Hoffman). Other interesting shorebirds on the Ocean City count were 2 Willets and a Red Knot. Pope found 6 American Woodcock at the upper end of the Oakland Golf Course on the early date of Feb. 19.

Jaegers, Gulls, Alcids. Most of the 38 Pomarine Jaegers on the Dec. 3 pelagic trip were 20-40 miles east of Ocean City (Rowlett). Two Glaucous and 2 Iceland Gulls were seen 60 miles east of Ocean City on the same trip. Other Glaucous Gulls were reported from the Baltimore area, with the first at Back River on Jan. 4 (Blom) and 3 there on Feb. 4; also, singles were at Hawkin's Point on Jan. 12 and the Pennington Landfill on Feb. 19. All were second-year birds. Other Iceland Gulls were on the Rock Run CBC, Dec. 17 continuing through Jan. 2 at Conowingo, Harford Co. (Wortman, Graham), 2 at Back River on Jan. 3 with 3 first-year birds there on Feb. 4 (Ringler), and a second-year bird at the Pennington Landfill, Feb. 27 (Blom). Reports of Lesser Black-backed Gulls began with an adult at Back River on Dec. 6 (Blom), 2 adults there on Dec. 21, and a near-adult on Jan. 18 (Ringler). Another was near the Easton Bypass, Dec. 30 to Jan. 2 (Reese), for the first Talbot County record. Another was seen in the Magothy River on the Annapolis CBC, Jan. 1. An unidentified gull seen in Baltimore Harbor on Jan. 21 (Ringler, Blom) and perhaps the same bird again on Back River on Mar. 9 (Stasz) may have possibly been a Greater Black-backed X Herring Gull hybrid. It was slightly larger than a Herring Gull and the mantle was slightly lighter than a Lesser Black-backed Gull. The head was heavily streaked, the bill was yellow with a large dark spot, and the legs were pink. Consideration should be given to possible hybrids in identifying any gull of unusual plumage. An immature Thayer's Gull was seen on Back River from Jan. 5 (Dave Abbott, *et al.*) through the end of the period. An adult of this species was seen there on Feb. 5 (Blom, Kaestner, Jim Orgain). Sightings of Mew Gulls at Back River were never

satisfactorily confirmed by photograph and the species should best be placed on the hypothetical list for the state. Here are the winter reports: an immature on Jan. 3 (Ringler, Blom) and again on Jan. 4 (Blom); an adult on Jan. 5 (Ringler, Larry Bonham); an immature on Jan. 19 (Stasz, Resch); and an adult on Feb. 12 (Graham, Stasz, and Sherm Suter). A winter-plumaged adult Black-headed Gull with a distinct pink flush on the breast was found at Back River by Holmes and Knight on Jan. 1 and was seen there through Jan. 7. An unusually late Laughing Gull was seen limping into flight at the sewage plant there on Jan. 3 (Ringler). Three Laughing Gulls were found on the Crisfield CBC. Black-legged Kittiwakes off Ocean City on Dec. 3 numbered 424 (Rowlett). A Razorbill was there on Dec. 4 (Rowlett).

Owls. A pair of Barn Owls was observed in courtship display near Loch Raven, Dec. 31 (Blom). The Long-eared Owl at Sandy Point was last seen on Jan. 1 for the CBC (Wierenga). Blom found a Long-ear at Piney Run Park, Carroll Co. Dec. 24; 2 were seen for the Liberty Reservoir CBC, Dec. 26; 4 were present at least from Jan. 2 through the end of the period. Another Long-ear was reported at Gude's Nursery from at least Jan. 1, and 2 were there occasionally until Feb. 4. Short-eared Owls on CBCs were 1 at Catoctin on Dec. 18, 3 at Liberty Reservoir on Dec. 26, 4 at Ocean City on Dec. 29, and 7 at Southern Dorchester on Dec. 30. Others west of the Bay were 1 at Gude's, Jan. 22 (DuMont), up to 2 near Buckeystown, Frederick Co., during February (Rowlett), and 1 near Hillsmere, Anne Arundel Co., Feb. 5 (Helen & John Ford). Single Saw-whet Owls were noted on the Southern Dorchester CBC and at Gude's from Jan. 2 through Feb. 4, with 2 on Jan. 29 (Rowlett, Robert W. Warfield, Wierenga).

Flycatchers, Larks, Chickadees. The only Eastern Phoebe on CBCs this year were 3 at Ocean City on Dec. 29 and 1 at Baltimore, Dec. 31. On Jan. 14 Wierenga reported 27 Horned Larks arrived at Sandy Point, indicating the continued movement of birds as the severity of the weather forced them to go. In Garrett County Mrs. Pope reported that Horned Larks were present "especially on freshly spread manure. Since dairy farmers daily remove manure from their barns and either spread it on fields or dump it on a pile if the snow is too deep to get to the fields, many birds probably depend on this food source in the winter. Some farmers have reported the birds gathering at the barns at manure-removal time." Despite the harsh winter little movement by Black-capped Chickadees was noted. Observations outside their breeding range were few. On the other hand, a Boreal Chickadee was found at the Back River sewage plant on Dec. 9 (Stasz, Ringler) and remained throughout the period.

Wrens, Thrushes. The only CBC House Wren was at Baltimore, Dec. 31. Once again the Carolina Wren became the martyr of the season. Table 1 shows a comparison of Carolina Wrens found on CBCs during 1976 and 1977 in Maryland. As can be seen the number of Carolina Wrens increases from the mountains to the Coastal Plain. Conversely, the percentage drop in numbers increases with elevation.



Table 1. Carolina Wrens on Christmas Bird Counts

Region	No. of CBCs	No. of Carolina Wrens		Party- miles on Foot		Carolina Wrens/Party- mile on Ft.		% de- crease in Wrens
		1976	1977	1976	1977	1976	1977	
Allegheny Mtn.	1	14	1	70	122	0.20	0.01	95.0%
Ridge & Valley	3	275	55	137	106	2.01	0.52	74.1%
Piedmont	6	1,499	382	661	582	2.27	0.66	70.9%
Coastal Plain	11	2,425	1,130	1,002	1,020	2.42	1.11	54.1%

Early migrating American Robins numbered 984 in Southern Dorchester County, Feb. 11 (Armistead). An adult male Varied Thrush was present at a feeder in Savage, Howard Co., Dec. 11-15 (George and Chandler Robbins, Holmes, Rowlett, *et al.*). This is only the third documented record for the state.

Pipits, Warblers. Wandering flocks of Water Pipits during the winter included 50 at Williston, Caroline Co., Dec. 17 (Edwin Unger), 20 at Noland's Ferry, Frederick Co., Jan. 7 (Warfield), and 31 at Sandy Point, Jan. 14 (Wierenga). Warblers were scarce on Christmas Counts this year. The only exceptional birds were single Orange-crowned Warblers for Ocean City on Dec. 29 and Point Lookout on Jan. 2. High counts of other species were 21 Pine Warblers for Point Lookout; and for Ocean City, 7 Palm Warblers and 4 Common Yellowthroats. Single Common Yellowthroats in the Piedmont were on the Catoctin, Triadelphia, and Bowie counts.

Blackbirds, Tanagers. Brewer's Blackbirds were found in the greatest numbers and several different places last year. Reports included 1 on the Allegany County CBC, Dec. 17 (Mary Twigg), a record high count of 24 on the Lower Kent CBC, Dec. 18 (Klimkiewicz, Droege) with 20 still present on Jan. 5 (Parks), 1 on the Southern Dorchester CBC, Dec. 30 (George Robbins), 3 on the Annapolis CBC on Jan. 1 (Stasz) with 1 male remaining to Jan. 3, and up to 3 at the Back River sewage plant, Jan. 4-29 (Blom, *et al.*). Brewer's Blackbirds have been occurring more frequently in the east. Care in identification should always be taken, but there is no reason there should not be more seen in Maryland. The earliest record for the state was a male and two females near Piney Run Park, Carroll Co., Nov. 13, 1976 (Stasz, Ringler, Blom) and the latest were on Apr. 8, 1956 with 3 near Easton and 4 at Blackwater Refuge (P. A. Buckley). Most records have come from December and January. A female-plumaged Western Tanager was found by Martin in an orchard two miles north of Colesville, Montgomery Co., Dec. 24, on the Triadelphia CBC.

Finches. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak was banded on the Allegany County CBC, Dec. 17 (Ken Hodgdon). Mark Hoffman found an Indigo Bunting on the Point Lookout CBC, Jan. 2. The only Dickcissel reported was one in Greensboro, Caroline Co., Dec. 15 (Hewitt). Pine Grosbeaks did not join the massive flight of other northern finches. Two males and a female were in Churchville on Feb. 8 (Graham), one at a feeder in Frederick County during an unspecified period, and one at a feeder in

Baltimore County during December (David Williams). Red Crossbills appeared on several CBCs with 2 at Triadelphia Dec. 24 (C. Robbins), 3 for Bowie (Klimkiewicz) and 9 for Baltimore (Doug Hackman), both on Dec. 31, and 2 for Annapolis, Jan. 1. Others were noted at Gude's Nursery, 3 on Jan. 22 (DuMont), and 6 at Carey Run, Garrett Co., Feb. 20 (Rowlett). White-winged Crossbills appeared as follows: 11 on the Salisbury CBC on Dec. 26, 5 on the Southern Dorchester CBC on Dec. 30, 15 in Chestertown, Kent Co., on Jan. 13 (Robin Newlin), 1 to 2 in Parkville, Feb. 1-13 (DuMont, Graham), and 3 on Savage Mt., Garrett Co., Feb. 20 (Rowlett).

Sparrows, Longspurs, and Snow Buntings. A Grasshopper Sparrow was near Henryton, Carroll Co., on the Dec. 26 Liberty Reservoir CBC (Wayne Klockner). Wintering Vesper Sparrows farther north than usual were singles in Churchville on Jan. 2 (Graham) and in northwest Baltimore County on Jan. 22 (Blom, Orgain, Steve Hardiman). A Northern Junco of the *mearnsi* race was present in Laurel, Prince Georges Co., from Jan. 19 to the end of the period (Rowlett). American Tree Sparrows staged an impressive flight throughout the state. High for the CBCs was a total of 309 at Liberty Reservoir on Dec. 26. Rowlett found them to be quite common among other ground-feeding birds along the roadsides on the Eastern Shore. Chipping Sparrows appeared on several CBCs, but one exceptional bird was at the feeder of Wilson Ford in Churchville, Jan. 16. Also in Churchville, variously at the feeders of Ford and Spike Updegrave, was an immature Clay-colored Sparrow from Jan. 15 through Feb. 15. One wonders what these extraordinary birds would be doing without the assistance of bird feeders everywhere. Wintering Lincoln's Sparrows were noted on the Triadelphia CBC on Dec. 24 (Stasz), the Ocean City CBC on Dec. 29 (Klimkiewicz), and in Parkville on Feb. 13 (Graham). Lapland Longspurs of note were one each on the Liberty Reservoir and Ocean City CBCs (Wierenga and Rowlett, respectively), 3 in Churchville on Feb. 7 (Graham), and in Kent County, 1 on Feb. 10, 3 on Feb. 18, and the last 2 on Mar. 2 (Parks). Snow Buntings were widespread. The last 4 departed Sandy Point on Dec. 21, but 31 new arrivals appeared there on Jan. 14 (Wierenga). Several were at Sycamore Landing, Montgomery Co., Jan. 21 (DuMont). One was photographed at a feeder in Glen Arm, Baltimore Co., Jan. 22 (Nancy Rowe). A single bird appeared in Kent County on Jan. 26; additional arrivals made a high count of 21 on Feb. 19, and the flock dwindled to a single bird on Mar. 5 (Parks).

Corrigendum - Vol. 33, No. 3. The cover photo was taken on Pleasure Island, not Miller Island.

3501 Melody Lane, Baltimore 21207



#### SAVE THESE DATES

- May 5, 1979 ANNUAL STATEWIDE BIRD COUNT in every Maryland County.  
Contact your local Chapter or Asst. Editor Douglas Hackman.
- May 11-13 ANNUAL M.O.S. CONVENTION, Ocean City. Watch for announcement.  
Reserve early for May 13 pelagic trip; send \$40 to Richard Rowlett, P.O. Box 579, Ocean City 21842.

## THE MARYLAND CHRISTMAS COUNTS OF 1977

*D. Charles Dupree*

Mild winters appear to have shifted away from the Maryland area during the Christmas counts. Cold weather didn't prevent Ocean City compilers from recording 157 species to tie for 34th place nationally with such hot spots as Merritt Island NWR and West Palm Beach, Florida; Palo Alto and Parker-Colorado River, California; and Old River, Texas. Ocean City also reported 100 Screech Owls, the highest count in the entire CBC area.

The 71 participants on the Annapolis count took several national high counts away from Seneca, which suffered from heavy rains all day: Red-bellied Woodpecker (348), Downy Woodpecker (423), Carolina Chickadee (1398) and White-throated Sparrow (4505). One Lesser Black-backed Gull, seen on the Annapolis count by Rick Blom, Steve Hardiman, and Jim Orgain, tied the national high. Ken Hodgdon caught and banded a Rose-breasted Grosbeak to give Allegany County the distinction of being one of eleven count areas nationwide to record one of this species. A surprising count of 1393 Turkey Vultures at Point Lookout not only led all Maryland counts but was also a national high count.

Raptor numbers in general appear good. Perhaps the effects of the DDT ban are still showing. The appearance of 3 Common Redpolls on three counts was just a beginning. In January they were everywhere and a few Hoary Redpolls joined them. Brewer's Blackbirds, almost never reported on Maryland CBCs, surprised observers on four counts. Other surprise birds include a Grasshopper Sparrow on Liberty Reservoir by Wayne Klockner, a Western Tanager at Triadelphia Reservoir by Elwood Martin, a Northern Oriole on Washington County (many observers), an Indigo Bunting on Point Lookout by Mark Hoffman, and a Least Bittern on Crisfield by Danny Bystrak.

Now for the bad news, probably a result of the severe winter of 1976-77. Both kinglets continued to set new lows; this occurred on five counts for each species. Carolina Wren populations declined below previous lows on eleven counts. Lows for the Belted Kingfisher were recorded on four counts. While only one count set a new low for the Eastern Bluebird, total numbers continue to decline. The low number of duck species in some areas may be more a result of the frozen water than a decline in numbers. What effect the second consecutive extreme cold winter had following the CBC will not be apparent until the 1978-79 season.

Observers at Seneca, St. Michaels and Catoctin Mountain will probably talk about the heavy, continuous rains for years to come. What was amazing was that 96 tried and true observers counted at Seneca. Although individual counts of birds were down, knocking Seneca out of national contention, the species count was good and included two new ones.

Table 1. Maryland Christmas

Species	Ocean City	Cris- field	So. Dorch.	St. Mich.	Lower Kent	Salis- bury	Den- ton	Elk- ton
Common Loon	45	2	1		1			
Red-throated Loon	123							
loon sp.								
Horned Grebe	51	19	4	10	1			
Pied-billed Grebe	8	3	2	1	1	6		
Northern Gannet	2							
Great Cormorant	1							
Double-cr. Cormorant	9							
Great Blue Heron	59	45	93	16	16	18	8	11
Green Heron		1		*				
Great Egret	1	1	1					
Snowy Egret	1							
Louisiana Heron	3	3	2					
Black-cr. Nt. Heron	1	13	4					
Least Bittern		1						
Am. Bittern	4	1	4					
Glossy Ibis	4	1						
Mute Swan	4	1		35	2			
Whistling Swan	142	106	1075	2893	2525	225	2820	5
Canada Goose	20875	1707	20790	60021	78659	3995	8826	12000
Brant	1555							
Snow Goose	14830	8	49		2	4	7	
Mallard	983	241	780	786	1411	300	181	287
Am. Black Duck	1250	526	563	134		64	58	12
Gadwall	7		1		3			
Com. Pintail	25	2	50	12	94	11	8	
Green-winged Teal	10	36	2		1	2		
Blue-winged Teal			3					
Am. Wigeon	12	1	4	2	28		2	
N. Shoveler	1		1				1	
Wood Duck	2	9			2	12	4	
Redhead	8	1	8	9	10			
Ring-necked Duck	9				5	29	6	
Canvasback	15	949	287	1076	292	234		
Greater Scaup	44	242	31	1	151			
scaup sp.	63	45			28	47	13	4
Lesser Scaup	66	88	32	360	642	13		
Common Goldeneye	69	138	65	39	35	6		1
Bufflehead	535	437	109	322	49	4	*	
Oldsquaw	340	288	7	1197	35	*		
King Eider	1							
White-winged Scoter	18			1515	11			
Surf Scoter	26	519	14	*				
Black Scoter	27	20		75	5			
Ruddy Duck	2	8	*	107	106		2	5
Hooded Merganser	9	5	23		24			1
Common Merganser			6		2	3	19	650
Red-br. Merganser	93	12	13		10			8
Turkey Vulture	675	661	134	86	99	357	291	50
Black Vulture	26	28	28	10	9	21		8

## Bird Count, 1977-1978

Point Look.	Anna-polis	Acco-keek	Bo-wie	Rock Run	Sen-eca	Tria-delph	Balt-imore	Liber-Res.	Cat-octin	Wash-Co.	Alleg-Co.	Garr-Co.
	5						1					1
	*						*					
1												
62	5			2	3	3	*	2				*
2	4			1	2		1	3		3		
<hr/>												
9												
48	42	1	23	7	21	1	3	*	1	12	8	
			1									
<hr/>												
	1						2				1	
1812	556	11	16	178	22	23				1		
1484	5167	350	1794	5279	90	1798	2044	222	4	1		
<hr/>												
1					1							
153	1390	14	225	47	239	642	451	368	68	579	138	*
76	214	160	150	58	82	223	90	184	5	128	21	3
3	3	10	2			2		9		7		
	1	4	4		1	2	27	5				
1			2					1		2		
	27	15				15	27	7	3	4		
					1		1					
			11		2		11	*	3	5		
2	2	70	1			1	1					*
	1	65	24		140	28	8	1				
1529	9049	80		18		2		*		*		*
469	1508			3			1					
376	444					33						
118	353	400	13	1	31	25		6		3		*
670	1574	4		15	11			15		1		1
659	253	125		26	46		1	1				
2417	1186	7		3	4							*
<hr/>												
729	21											
274	974											
87	18											
317	89	6			5		*	5				
40			29		4	9	9	19			2	
2	18	20	9	17	14	44	39	89	6	5		
25	12										1	*
1393	3	1	88	30	94	76	108	173	2	83		
31			5	1	3	9	4	84		52		

Table 1. Maryland Christmas Bird

Species	Ocean City	Crisfield	So. Dorch.	St. Mich.	Lower Kent	Salisbury	Denton	Elkton
Goshawk		1						
Sharp-shinned Hawk	18	7	8	7	2	5		1
Cooper's Hawk	3					1		
Red-tailed Hawk	60	21	34	5	21	20	5	30
Red-shouldered Hawk	17	3	18		1	9	4	9
Rough-legged Hawk	1	6	21				2	
Golden Eagle			*			1		
Bald Eagle	3		38	*	*	1		
Marsh Hawk	34	56	98	1	5	18	12	7
Peregrine Falcon	1							
Merlin	2				1			
Peregrine/Merlin sp.								
Am. Kestrel	89	62	38	53	32	82	64	36
Ruffed Grouse								
Com. Bobwhite	244	81	222	90	43	117	76	33
Ring-necked Pheasant					*			1
Wild Turkey								
Sandhill Crane								
King Rail		3						
Clapper Rail	3	2						
Virginia Rail	2	20	2		3			
Sora	1				1			
Am. Coot	35		12	1	3	2		
Am. Oystercatcher	8							
Semipalmated Plover	1							
Killdeer	191	49	42	1	1	16	1	2
Black-bellied Plover	284	12						
Marbled Godwit	1							
Greater Yellowlegs	2	2	23			1		
Lesser Yellowlegs		1	4					
Willet	2							
Ruddy Turnstone	96							
Am. Woodcock	12	1	4	3		1		
Common Snipe	38	35	44		2	11	1	1
Red Knot	1							
Sanderling	397	3						
Western Sandpiper	43	50						
peep sp.		1						
Purple Sandpiper	82							
Dunlin	793	162	90					
Iceland Gull								
Gr. Blk.-backed Gull	86	26	33	14	59	8	3	70
Lesser Blk.-backed Gull								
Herring Gull	2672	946	226	473	345	850	4	450
Ring-billed Gull	1740	443	353	1871	722	957	195	400
Laughing Gull		3		*				
Bonaparte's Gull	257			6	1			
Forster's Tern	8							
Rock Dove	121	99	18	71	150	82	198	259
Mourning Dove	1105	565	352	367	285	645	407	256



Count, 1977-1978 (continued)

<u>Point Look.</u>	<u>Anna- polis</u>	<u>Acco- keek</u>	<u>Bo- wie</u>	<u>Rock Run</u>	<u>Sen- eca</u>	<u>Tria- delph</u>	<u>Balt- imore</u>	<u>Liber. Res.</u>	<u>Cat- octin</u>	<u>Wash. Co.</u>	<u>Alleg. Co.</u>	<u>Garr. Co.</u>
5	11	1	12	3	4	8	1	4		3	3	1
2	1		2	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	*
32	28	1	53	11	45	18	36	50	14	30	10	10
14	23	3	90	1	22	51	13	20	2	1	2	
				1		1						2
6	3			1								
11	3		8	9	17	1	1	2	7	*	3	
							*					
1								1				
	1											
41	35	1	54	37	53	42	47	39	32	30	14	10
									1		2	39
56	252	2	95	28	57	74	13	79	26	20	23	
				3			19	40	36	17		2
					2							3
				*								
1												
161					2		*					
58	23	2	20	38	3	16	9			16	10	3
6	2		6		3	2						
			7			5	3			1		2
1												
60	171	10	3	123	1		4	*				
	1											
886	2522	7	1781	203	43	38	403	53				
2511	2374	55	3303	517	231	139	1140	91				
1												
18	17							1				1
60	1311		626	392	280	644	1501	1207	397	893	147	116
618	976	7	1211	162	1302	1019	685	1059	285	372	32	11

Table 1. Maryland Christmas Bird

Species	Ocean City	Cris-field	So. Dorch.	St. Mich.	Lower Kent	Salisbury	Denton	Elk-ton
Barn Owl	1	1	2	1	1			
Screech Owl	100	34	19	3	16	9		1
Great Horned Owl	45	27	21	3	6	8	7	1
Barred Owl	5	1			1	1	2	1
Long-eared Owl								
Short-eared Owl	4	4	7					
Saw-whet Owl			1					
Belted Kingfisher	22	30	23	8		17	9	4
Common Flicker	227	73	122	42	28	109	70	22
Pileated Woodpecker	34	7	23			1	1	
Red-bell. Woodpecker	123	41	34	42	23	49	28	35
Red-headed Woodpecker				2				
Yellow-bell. Sapsucker	10	4		13	3		2	
Hairy Woodpecker	67	13	22	9	1	8	7	15
Downy Woodpecker	150	82	114	21	13	48	27	53
Eastern Phoebe	3							*
Horned Lark	79	2	30		5	6	72	
Tree Swallow	1	2						
Blue Jay	196	58	64	241	60	229	290	147
Common Raven								
Am. Crow	152	731	470	1402	47	499	204	236
Fish Crow	3	399	326	84		4	5	5
Blk.-capped Chickadee								4
Carolina Chickadee	414	219	222	288	63	157	106	140
Tufted Titmouse	151	33	54	94	12	61	53	71
White-br. Nuthatch	33	3	15	23	17	2	10	37
Red-breasted Nuthatch	27	5	1	36	10	16	23	11
Brown-headed Nuthatch	2	9	68	45		2		
Brown Creeper	28	10	26	1	1	9	6	7
House Wren	1	1						
Winter Wren	22	8	4		1			
Carolina Wren	216	104	102	30	6	51	13	12
Marsh Wren	3	11	14					
Sedge Wren	5	7	7					
N. Mockingbird	140	53	68	111	42	98	63	64
Gray Catbird	16	7		3		1		3
Brown Thrasher	21	18	3	7		6	3	
Am. Robin	17975	418	433	150	5	498	316	75
Hermit Thrush	25	29	36	2	2	16		11
Eastern Bluebird	36	9	13	*	5	32	55	7
Golden-cr. Kinglet	39	21	26	4		21	3	7
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6	7	17	5		10	1	5
Water Pipit	950	76	5				350	
Cedar Waxwing	131	2	75	63		216	103	8
Loggerhead Shrike	2		3				1	
European Starling	15134	1916	1013	3605	1215	2763	2275	2893
Orange-cr. Warbler	1							
Yellow-rumped Warbler	2184	1725	2207	98	9	177	*	9
Pine Warbler	19	7	5	3		3	1	
Palm Warbler	7					1		

Count, 1977-1978 (continued)

Point Look.	Anna-polis	Acco-keek	Bo-wie	Rock Run	Sen-ecca	Tria-delph	Balt-imore	Liber. Res.	Cat-octin	Wash. Co.	Alleg. Co.	Garr. Co.
2	1		6	1		3	1	2	1			
7	25		8	2		6	12	37	3		5	6
3	16		11		2	4	3	9			2	5
	3		16		11	13	3	9	6		2	4
	1							2				
								3	1			
9	36	2	18	11	21	12	14	16	11	15	9	
15	242	10	225	24	119	88	29	76	7	8	21	1
	12		45		32	16	4	11	1	24	14	7
61	348	10	310	18	179	147	92	129	39	22	49	2
	2	1	1	1	9	2	2		4	1		1
1	16	7	20	1	16	8	6	6		2	1	
8	81	1	68	12	16	46	29	31	11	13	20	29
37	423	7	316	10	222	178	191	190	52	78	93	106
					1		1					
500	15		3		20	6			171	50	58	42
25	691	20	825	271	553	589	443	475	132	176	375	288
												8
485	1197	30	2637	180	2413	3725	1491	4181	1300	935	259	668
2	46	2	231	11	184	175	27	8	14	6		
			3			1	26	6	24	58	166	714
176	1398	24	1075	138	543	611	490	523	114	145	1	
59	543	17	545	95	214	291	203	212	77	76	214	143
2	162	1	217	87	108	176	205	154	64	110	113	222
6	36		122	15	3	29	9	16	1	3		4
8												
13	78	4	48	19	61	40	14	25	21	19	9	32
							1					
15	17		27		13	18	5	5	1	1	3	3
85	344	4	175	14	76	112	100	68	14	12	29	1
2	4											
151	621	10	391	37	235	321	281	249	58	120	33	4
2	7		2	2		5	1	*	1	*		
3	5		4	1	1	3	2	1		1		
449	378	2	71	28	11	23	115	36	2	28		6
26	97		28	2	9	21	8	30	1	2		
23	15	2	92	4	26	52	41	67	3	5	25	
14	80		94	4	20	61	32	81	7	2	1	12
13	18	2	10	11	19	3	3	11	1	8		1
9	1		3		14							
85	651		313	31	97	13	145	50		29		3
1			1		2	1				*	2	
2333	5755	75	23072	3376	15417	5709	6607	5586	3004	7933	10658	3370
1												
410	222		93	4	13	49	48	93		2	1	
21	2											
2												

Table 1. Maryland Christmas Bird

Species	Ocean City	Cris-field	So. Dorch.	St. Mich.	Lower Kent	Salisbury	Denton	Elk-ton
Com. Yellowthroat	4		3				*	
House Sparrow	1528	223	158	605	340	741	341	236
Eastern Meadowlark	1238	862	359	83	33	695	70	17
Red-winged Blackbird	225000	11943	42750	2252	12348	1158	506	2500
N. (Balto) Oriole				*				
Rusty Blackbird	23	32	13			37		1
Brewer's Blackbird			1		24			
Boat-tailed Grackle	168	415	842					
Common Grackle	10145	1275	45165	12	21	181	7718	279
Brown-hd. Cowbird	1025	95	68	99	120	21	61	42
Western Tanager								
N. Cardinal	568	219	243	465	265	337	157	180
Rose-br. Grosbeak								
Indigo Bunting								
Dickcissel							*	
Evening Grosbeak	18	12		58	28	23	11	7
Purple Finch	131	19	7	64	12	22	24	39
House Finch	255	36	3	158	6	27	29	22
Pine Grosbeak								
Common Redpoll	1			*		1		
Pine Siskin	149	42	81	85	20	2	29	36
Am. Goldfinch	386	137	245	280	70	80	128	57
Red Crossbill								
White-wing. Crossbill			5			11		
Rufous-sided Towhee	71	22	22	7	12	24	16	4
Savannah Sparrow	335	311	79	5	1	66	10	2
Grasshopper Sparrow								
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	18	2						
Vesper Sparrow	19	2	1		2			
N. Junco	833	248	186	690	346	1325	397	865
Am. Tree Sparrow	6	1	10		10			35
Chipping Sparrow	10	1			1	58		
Field Sparrow	346	73	106	24	4	66	59	45
White-cr. Sparrow	40	1	9	3	8	12	24	60
White-thr. Sparrow	3020	942	858	960	882	1165	380	634
Fox Sparrow	9	21	1	2	4	2	9	1
Lincoln's Sparrow	1							
Swamp Sparrow	388	420	325	8	19	93	21	5
Song Sparrow	831	636	412	277	87	198	60	83
Lapland Longspur	1							
Snow Bunting	222							
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS	336M	33M	124M	84M	102M	20M	27M	24M
TOTAL SPECIES	157	128	117	87	96	94	78	77
TOTAL PARTY-HOURS	290	144.5	195.5	70	50.5	100	70	67
PARTY-HOURS BY FOOT	233	99	142.5	20	14.5	49.5	26	32.5
PARTY-HOURS BY CAR	52	38.5	53	50	36	50.5	38	34.5
PARTY-MILES BY FOOT	175	73	106.5	26	14.5	37	16	31.5
PARTY-MILES BY CAR	389	418	212	401	200	403.5	282	320
PARTICIPANTS	50	26	37	22	24	37	17	27
PARTIES	29	17	22	8	7	16	11	8
FEEDERS				2	3	2	2	
FEEDER-HOURS				10	3	2	3	

\* Seen during count week.

## Count, 1977-1978 (continued)

Point Look.	Anna- polis	Acco- keek	Bo- wie	Rock Run	Sen- eca	Tria- delph	Balt- imore	Liber. Res.	Cat- octin	Wash. Co.	Alleg. Co.	Garr. Co.
	3	1	1	1		1			1			
502	1985	30	636	871	605	464	572	895	783	980	454	566
416	45	30	66	7	86	30	1	70	16	36	2	3
3705	5538	3	22450	3790	2509	1004	101	63	12	2203	17	2240
										1		
1	177		62		5							17
	3										1	
91	35343		202228	1047	28663	77	24	19	11	2394	217	4101
17	94		13815	206	5074	1940	25	22	20	935	8	233
						1						
420	1914	20	900	264	1138	766	763	1052	310	380	317	119
1											1	
					*							
	100	6	191	1	34	58	41	76	58	30	660	614
12	228		256	43	175	307	246	174	102	84	46	11
7	111		68	56	149	278	312	33	6	566	216	
								*				
			1									
23	377		326	48	88	84	208	59		34	30	11
190	1114	14	1128	98	576	310	414	502	293	254	96	33
	2		3			2	9	8				2
19	116	4	68	62	5	16	20	16	1		3	1
32	15	3	60	4	6	7		12				
								1				
			3						1			
515	3492	30	3828	467	2407	1940	1163	2440	589	918	692	364
1	56	2	64	7	157	78	39	309	100	89	48	127
2	2		5					1		*		
329	450		692	43	151	333	122	275	18	32	4	6
3	14		66	31	120	28	5	13	98	54	13	
1254	4505	35	3366	675	3167	2398	1475	2718	717	678	259	11
	5		4					2	2	*		
						1						
72	119		131	2	37	29	32	42	5	1	1	1
368	936	20	1244	114	501	550	359	744	112	66	29	25
								1				
8												
30M	101M	2M	292M	19M	69M	28M	23M	26M	9M	22M	16M	14M
108	111	61	95	84	92	93	90	91	70	75	64	60
131	307	21	346.5	62	290	191	136	176	71	83	93	137
102.5	210	21	308.5	28	172	157.5	81	124	28	38	33	34
22	91		38	34	118	33.5	55	52	43	45	60	103
94	178	13	287	44	160	154.5	67	125	32	46	28	122
135	666		445	160	569	369	302	459	343	447	406	485
34	66	3	84	12	88	33	30	31	23	40	30	27
17	40	3	40	6	39	23	16	20	11	14	14	18
	5		4		8	5	2		1	1	1	5
	25		4		40	5	2		3	2	2	16

Do you believe that it is possible to participate in 12 Christmas counts during one CBC period? Here's how it was done by Chan Robbins and Danny Bystrak. Dec. 17 - Garrett County; Dec. 18 - Catoctin Mountain; Dec. 23 - Danny - Wilmington, Del; Dec. 24 - Triadelphia; Dec. 26 - Danny - Liberty Res., Chan - Liberty Res., a.m., Salisbury, p.m.; Dec. 27 - Crisfield; Dec. 28 - Chincoteague; Dec. 29 - Ocean City; Dec. 30 - Southern Dorchester; Dec. 31 - Bowie; Jan. 1 - Annapolis; Jan. 2 - Point Lookout. What a schedule. It must be some kind of record.

Here is a summary of highlights of each Maryland Christmas Count, arranged from Southeast to Northwest. The bird counts and coverage details are given in Table 1.

1. OCEAN CITY - 34 State high counts were realized and 15 species were seen on no other counts. A Glossy Ibis found by Steve Whitcomb and 8 American Oystercatchers (Claudia Wilds, Henry Armistead and Elwood Martin) were first records for the count. Notable was the increased number of raptors sighted.

2. CRISFIELD - Nine State high counts were recorded. One Least Bittern observed by Danny Bystrak, new for the count and a Maryland CBC first, and 3 King Rails were the only ones seen or heard in the state. A Green Heron and a Goshawk sighted by Chan Robbins, a Mute Swan and 3 Laughing Gulls seen by Gerry Bishop and Bill Per-Lee were other unusual species.

3. SOUTHERN DORCHESTER - State high counts numbered 13. No other group recorded Saw-whet Owl or Blue-winged Teal. Seen during count week, but not on count day was a Golden Eagle. A Brewer's Blackbird observed by Andrea Bobeck and George Robbins on count day was the first count record of this species.

4. ST. MICHAELS - Three State high counts were recorded and no new species added. Green Heron, Laughing Gull, Northern (Baltimore) Oriole and Common Redpoll were exciting species seen during count week.

5. LOWER KENT COUNTY - Six State high counts were recorded. A Merlin (Floyd Parks), a Sora (Kathy Klimkiewicz), a Bonaparte's Gull (Floyd Parks) and 24 Brewer's Blackbirds (Kathy Klimkiewicz and Sam Droege) were the impressive sightings.

6. SALISBURY - Henry Armistead and Charles Hills spotted an immature Golden Eagle, the only one recorded in the State. It and a Greater Yellowlegs were new for the count. Three State highs were recorded.

7. DENTON - A Dickcissel seen during count week would have been a good one for the list, because none was seen elsewhere.

8. ELKTON - An impressive 650 Common Mergansers were the only State high count.

9. POINT LOOKOUT - Mark Hoffman spotted an Indigo Bunting, first for the list and the only one seen in Maryland on a count day although one was seen at Seneca during count week. Ten State high counts were recorded.

10. ANNAPOLIS AND GIBSON ISLAND - Twenty-five State highs were compiled and several nationwide highs. The State's only Lesser Black-backed Gull, sighted by Rick Blom, Steve Hardiman, and Jim Orgain, and 3 Brewer's Blackbirds tallied by Jim Stasz were new for the count.

11. ACCOKEEK - Two State highs were recorded, and Northern Goshawk and Common Yellowthroat were unusual for the area.



12. BOWIE - A Green Heron (Kathy Klimkiewicz), 5 Black Vultures (Steve Whitcomb), a Red-headed Woodpecker (Chris and Tim Opler and Robert Whitcomb), a Loggerhead Shrike (Carol Beyna and Maureen Blades), a Common Yellowthroat (Paul DuMont) and a Common Redpoll (Glen Funkhauser, Ed Kimmer and Eric Blanks) were new species for the list. Frozen ponds reduced the number of waterbirds seen. Sixteen State highs were recorded.

13. ROCK RUN - Not only was an Iceland Gull the first recorded on this count, but it was the only one seen in the State. A Sandhill Crane seen during count week did not oblige on count day. It would have been a Maryland CBC first.

14. SENECA - In spite of the heavy rains 5 State high counts and 2 new species were recorded. George Daniels spotted a Northern Shoveler while Joan and Paul Woodward came up with a Snow Goose (blue form). An Indigo Bunting was in the area count week, but declined to make an appearance on count day.

15. TRIADELPHIA RESERVOIR - State highs were tallied for 3 species. Unusual for the count were a Rough-legged Hawk spotted by Chuck Dupree, a Western Tanager seen by Elwood Martin (the only one recorded in the State and a Maryland CBC first), 2 Red Crossbills found by Chan Robbins and a Lincoln's Sparrow sighted by James Stasz.

16. BALTIMORE - Nine new highs were established. Five species missed during the count, including a Peregrine Falcon, were seen in count week.

17. LIBERTY RESERVOIR - Five State highs were compiled and thirteen new species were added. A Merlin, a Bonaparte's Gull, 2 Long-eared Owls, 3 Short-eared Owls, a Grasshopper Sparrow, a Chipping Sparrow, and a Lapland Longspur were the highlights of this count. In the count area during count week but not on count day were six species including a Pine Grosbeak which would have been a new one.

18. CATOCTIN MOUNTAIN - Heavy rains dampened spirits and kept the count down.

19. WASHINGTON COUNTY - An astounding 566 House Finches was the only State high, but a Red-shouldered Hawk was recorded for the first time. A Northern Oriole, which spent some time at a feeder, was believed to be of the Bullock's persuasion. Six other species in the count area during the week failed to appear on count day.

20. ALLEGANY COUNTY - In addition to the Rose-breasted Grosbeak previously mentioned, a Brewer's Blackbird, a Mute Swan, 2 Hooded Mergansers, and a Red-breasted Merganser were seen. A total of 660 Evening Grosbeaks was the only State high.

21. GARRETT COUNTY - State high counts numbered 3. Two Ring-necked Pheasants spotted by Mark Morey were new for the list. Eight species were in the circle in the count week but not seen on count day.

6002 Hunt Club Road, Elkridge 21227

## COMING EVENTS

Apr. 22	BALTIMORE	Lake Roland walk. R. E. Lee Park footbridge, 9 am.
	WICOMICO	Irish Grove Sanctuary cleanup and picnic. Meet at I.G.
	HOWARD	Flower walk, David Force Park. Swansfield Sch, 1 pm.

- Apr. 22 BALTIMORE Come-as-you-are-tea. "The Middle East" by Jim Orgain. County Library, Towson, 2:45-4:45 pm.  
 FREDERICK Trip to Tresselt's fish ponds. Meet Culler Lake Boat House, Frederick, 2 pm.
- 23 WICOMICO Annual meeting. Film, "Endangered Animals." Asbury Methodist Church, 1401 Camden Ave., Salisbury, 7:30.
- 24 BALTIMORE Lake Roland walk. See Apr. 22. 8 am. Mrs. Frank Iber.  
 PATUXENT Annual meeting. St. Philips, 6th & Main, Laurel, 7:45.  
 ALLEGANY Audubon Wildlife Adventure film, "Vanishing American Wildlife" by Burdette White. ACC theater, 8 pm.
- WASHINGTON Annual Meeting; no details.
- 25 HOWARD Walk at Symphony Woods, Columbia. Children's Zoo, 9:30.
- 26 BALTIMORE Cylburn walk and banding demonstration, 9 am.  
 BALTIMORE Trip to Rock Run. Towson Plaza Self-serv PO, 8 am.
- 28 BALTIMORE Trip to C&O Canal, Antietam. Call V. Fletty 252-4625.  
 BALTIMORE Evening Woodcock trip. Towson Plaza Self-serv PO, 6:30.  
 ANNE ARUNDEL Trip to C&O Canal. Meet at Montgomery Ward's packing lot, General's Hiway entrance, 7:30. J & H Ford.
- 29 Ocean City Pelagic Trip, \$40. Write Richard Rowlett, PO Box 579, Ocean City, 289-4296. Change to DAYLIGHT TIME.  
 BALTIMORE Loch Raven walk. Towson Plaza Self-serv PO, 7 am.  
 MONTGOMERY C&O Canal walk, Seneca Aqueduct. Meet at south end of Riley's Lock Road, 8 am. Frank Witebsky 365-2944.
- BALTIMORE Lake Roland walk. See Apr. 22. 4 pm. Kathy Hunt.
- May 1 BALTIMORE Lake Roland walk. See Apr. 22. 8 am. Alan Ross.  
 BALTIMORE Ornithology class. Banding. Cylburn, 8 pm.
- 3 BALTIMORE Trip to Woodstock. Towson Plaza Self-serv PO, 8 am.  
 KENT Monthly Meeting. County Library, Chestertown, 7:30.  
 FREDERICK Monthly Meeting. Hodson Sci Bldg, Hood College, 7:30.

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## MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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